

DECLASSIFIED

POH 14 CAMB
POL 12 CAMB

FORM DS 322(OCR)

12/7/12

31

140598

140596 | 032031Z AUG 72 | JOHNSON

CONFIDENTIAL

EA/LC:AFANTIPPAS:DTM
8/3/72 EXT 23133
EA/LC:LMRIVES

EXCISE

5046

ROUTINE

PHNOM PENH

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY Ambley DATE 10/9/90
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

140598
8/3/72

SUBJ: REPORTED REPUBLICAN BOYCOTT OF FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS

LMR:mf
AFA @ja

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AP DESPATCH FROM PHNOM PENH RECEIVED AUG. 3. BEGIN QUOTE TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY NINE CANDIDATES FROM PARTIES FILED TODAY FOR 126 SEATS IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS SEPTEMBER 3. ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL PARTIES DECIDED TO BOYCOTT THE POLLS AND ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF ACTING IN A WAY THAT IS 'UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND UNDEMOCRATIC'. THE HEAD OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, SISOWATH SIRIK MATAK, A FORMER DEPUTY PREMIER, ANNOUNCED THAT THE PARTY WAS "WITHDRAWING ITS CONFIDENCE" FROM THE REGIME HEADED BY PRESIDENT LON NOL, ONCE HIS CLOSEST POLITICAL ALLY, BECAUSE OF THE ELECTORAL LAW. ANALYSTS BELIEVE THAT THE LAW HAS BEEN DRAWN WITH THE INTENTION OF PROVIDING THE SOCIAL REPUBLICAN PARTY, LED BY COLONEL LON NON, THE PRESIDENT'S BROTHER, WITH AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY. THE ANALYSTS SAY FEWER THAN 6000 VOTES BY REFUGEES FROM ENEMY-OCCUPIED PROVINCES ELECT 10 ASSEMBLYMEN WHILE THE SAME NUMBER OF SEATS GOES TO PHNOM PENH WITH MORE THAN 400,000 VOTERS. THE FORMER WOULD EASILY BE PRESSURED BY THE GOVERNMENT, ANALYSTS NOTED. END QUOTE

2.

BI, EC
BI, EC

DEPARTMENT
WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS CONCERNING THE AP STORY. 44

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